1531 hrs.

Indian Labour Bill*

[English]

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (Surendra Nagar) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to simplify, rationalise and consolidate the laws relating to labour so as to make them less complex for easier comprehension, implementation and enforcement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to simplify, rationalise and consolidate the laws relating to labour so as to make them less complex for easier comprehension, implementation and enforcement."

The motion was adopted

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : I introduce the Bill

1532 hrs.

Prohibition Bill*

[English]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for total prohibition and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for total prohibition and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Sir, I introduce the Bill

1533 hrs.

Widows (Protection and Welfare) Bill*

[English]

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE (Raiganj): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and welfare of widows.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and welfare of widows."

The motion was adopted

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : Sir, I introduce the Bill

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* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 21.2.97

1535 hrs.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS BILL* — *Contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House shall take up item No. 20, which is 'further consideration of the motion moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia'. Time allotted for discussing this was two hours. We have already taken one hour and two minutes. So, the time left now is only 58 minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Please extend the time for discussing this.

KUMARI MAMATA BENERJEE : Sir, this is a very important Bill, so please extend the time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are only four speakers to speak. Let us see that. If necessary, we will think of that. Kumari Mamata Banerjee, you will get enough time to participate. Please do not worry about that.

Shri Manoranjan Bhakta was on his legs. Shri Bhakta.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to my hon. friend, Shri Basu Deb Acharia for having brought this Bill before the House, to kindle the hopes and aspirations of the people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands, as you know, is inhibited by people from different States with different languages, religions, castes, etc. But it has been the culture of the Islands to be one society and to be known as 'mini-India', as Shrimati Indira Gandhi termed it.

It is also one of the great features of the Island territories that there is no communal riots taking place in that part of the country. The practice of untouchability is not there.

[Translation]

SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Because BJP is not in power there.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : BJP is there, still they could not start that kind of an activity there, which they are doing here. That is why, it is absolutely necessary and essential to see that the hopes and aspirations of the people are given due regard, and the Government should take appropriate action for that.

I would also like to mention here that when the paper regarding 'transfer of power' came from England to India, for some reason or the other, the British Government did not make a mention of Andaman and Nicobar Islands with India. There was also a very strong demand from Mr. Jinnah that this Territory, neither historically nor geographically is a part of India and that this land should be given to Pakistan. While demanding so, he was putting forward his argument that to have a link between West Pakistan and East Pakistan, there could be a water passage between them. He was saying like that. But Lord Mountbatten, the then leaders of India and the leaders of the Indian National Congress were putting